

me about two years ago that he was aware of other instances of such a hybrid. According to the views of the last-named accurate observer, the *Anas bimaculata* of Keyserling and Blasius*—the *Anas glochitans* of Gmelin (but not of Pallas)—is the result of this cross; and Mr. Berkeley has also expressed a similar opinion ('Field,' March 16, 1861). With the greatest deference to these authorities, my own idea is that the birds so denominated have descended from the Wild Duck (*Anas boschas*, Linn.) and the Teal (*Querquedula crecca*, Steph.), as has already been suggested by Mr. Tomes and Mr. Bartlett ('Zoologist,' p. 1698); and I have arrived at this conclusion not only from repeated examinations of the specimens described by Mr. Vigors (Linn. Trans. xiv. p. 559), which are now in the British Museum, but also from having seen several other birds of the same kind in different collections.

The principal distinctions observable between the subject of the present notice and the so-called *Anas bimaculata* are in the greater size of the former, and in the comparative obsolescence of the dark patch which, in that supposed species, separates the lighter-coloured spots on the sides of the head. In the bird I now submit to your notice this patch is reduced to a mere line, scarcely perceptible until looked for. The breast also wants the well-defined dark spots which are characteristic of the hybrid known as the "Bimaculated Duck."—*Proc. Zool. Soc.* Dec. 10, 1861.

On a new Species of Finch, of the Genus Sycalis, from Mexico. By PHILIP LUTLEY SCLATER, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S.

In a small collection of Mexican birds lately sent to me for examination by M. Parzudaki, of Paris, I find a little Finch of the genus *Sycalis*, which I propose to call—

SYCALIS CHRYSOPS, sp. nov.

S. brunnescenti-olivacea, capite obscuriore substriato: interscapulio, alis et cauda nigricantibus, fusco marginatis: loris, oculorum ambitu, tectricibus subalaribus et corpore subtus flavis, pectore medio et lateribus obscurioribus, fusciscentioribus: rostro et pedibus fuscis.

Long. tota 4·0, alæ 2·6, caudæ 1·6 poll. Angl. et dec.

Hab. In Mexico merid.

Obs. Affinis *S. arvensis*, sed staturâ minore et loris ciliisque aureis distinguenda.

This bird is interesting as the first species of the genus *Sycalis* recorded from the country north of Panama. It was, however, to be expected that the Trans-Panamanic province of the Neotropical region would produce representatives of this, as of other peculiar South-American genera. *Sycalis chrysops* belongs to the same subgroup as *S. arvensis*, but may readily be distinguished from it by its diminutive size.—*Proc. Zool. Soc.* Nov. 26, 1861.

* Several writers assign the authority of Pennant for the trivial name "*bimaculata*." I cannot trace it further back than the 'Wirbelthiere Europas' of the naturalists I have mentioned. There is no question about the *Anas glochitans* of Pallas being a good species, but I do not know any recorded instance of its occurrence in Europe.